

Neolithic Revolution and the Start of Agricultural Societies

Key Concept 1.2

The Neolithic Revolution and Early Agricultural Societies

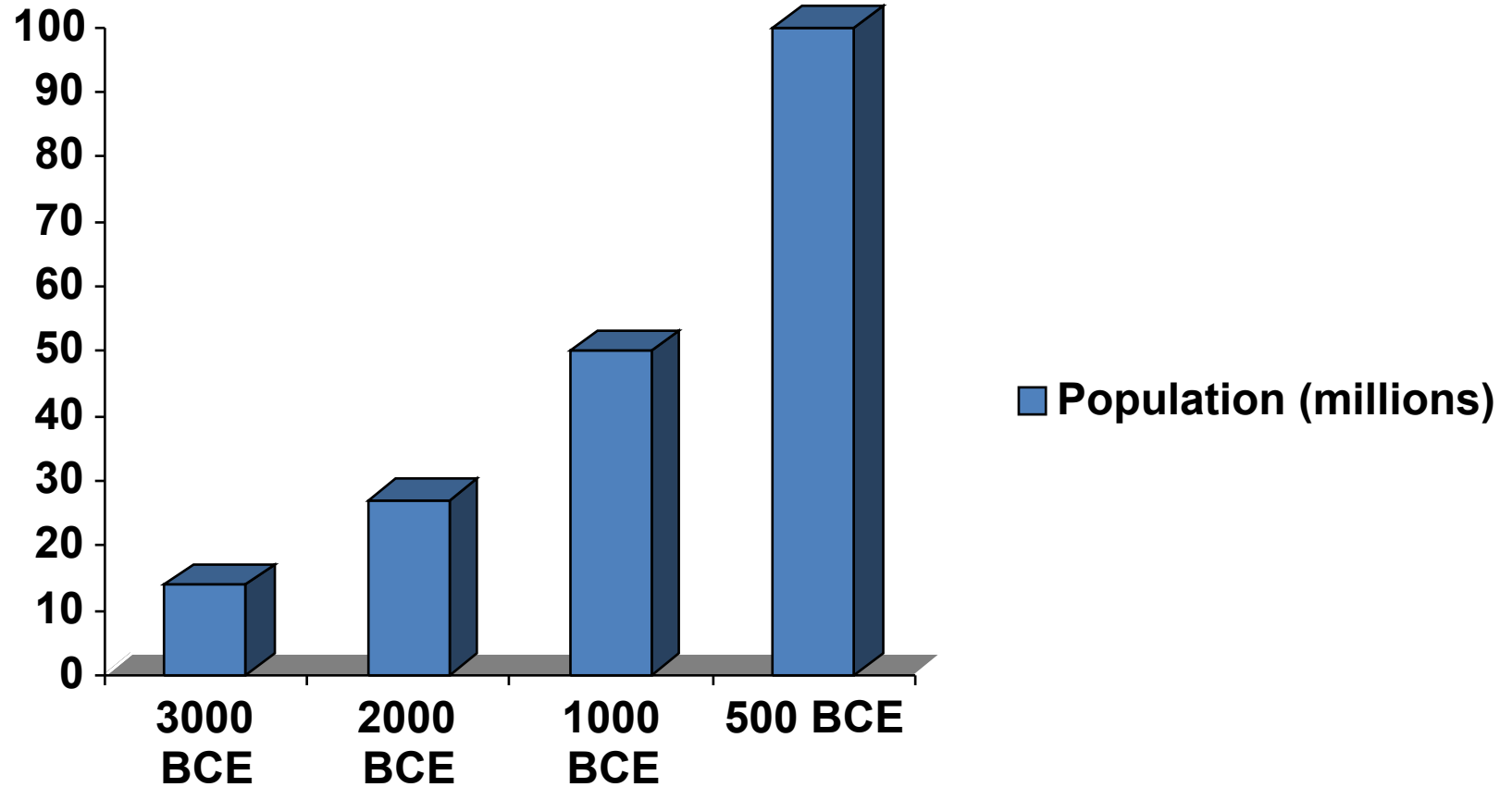
In response to warming climates at the end of the last Ice Age, some groups adapted to the environment in new ways, while others remained hunter-gatherers.

Settled agriculture is the defining characteristic of the Neolithic Revolution.

Key Concept 1.2 Neolithic Revolution and Early Agricultural Societies

- Neolithic Revolution - 8,000 BCE (10-12,000 years ago)
- Began in Middle East, but agricultural villages also emerged at different times in other areas
- Changes
 - Agriculture & domestication of animals
 - Surplus of food
 - Permanent settlements
 - Denser populations
 - Job specialization
 - Social stratification (kings, religious leaders, warriors, scribes, crafts people)

Agriculture and Population Growth

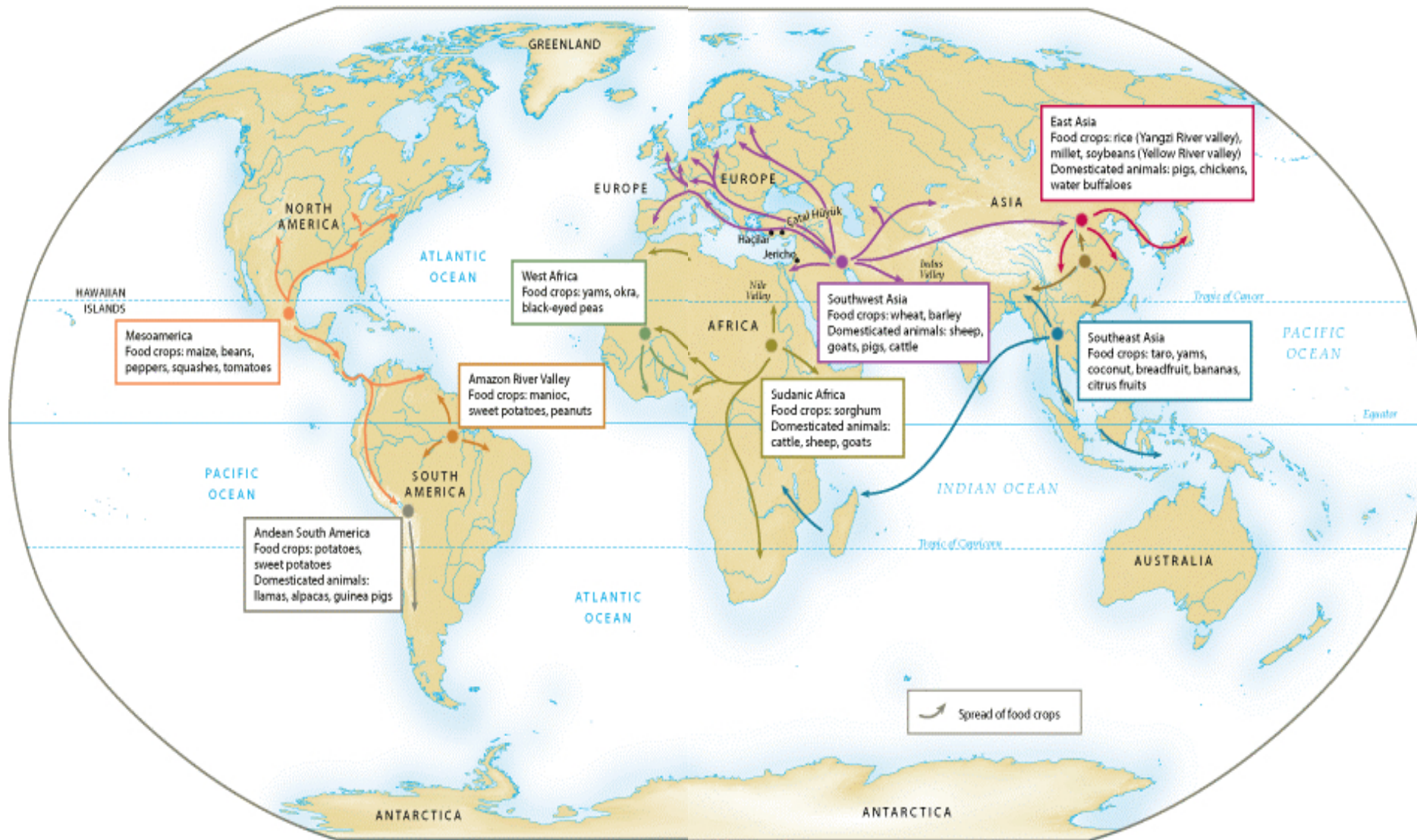


Key Concept 1.2 Neolithic Revolution and Early Agricultural Societies

What was life like during the Neolithic Era?

- New technologies increased food production
 - ▣ irrigation, wooden plows, wheels, sickles, traps, clay pots, woven baskets
- Metallurgy (manipulating metals)
 - ▣ Bronze Age 3000 BCE (copper & tin)
 - ▣ Iron Age 1,300 BCE
- Patriarchy Develops (continuity for rest of WH)
- Human Impact on Environment (agriculture irrigation and pastoralism overgrazing and erosion)

Origins and Early Spread of Agriculture



Settled agriculture emerged at different times in what are called ***River Valley Civilizations***

- Mesopotamia = Tigris & Euphrates rivers
- Egypt = Nile river
- India = Indus River
- China = Yellow river

Other civilizations to emerge

- Sub-Saharan Africa
- Mesoamerica & Andes
- Papua New Guinea



Map 2.1 The Fertile Crescent
Chapter 2, *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources*, First Edition
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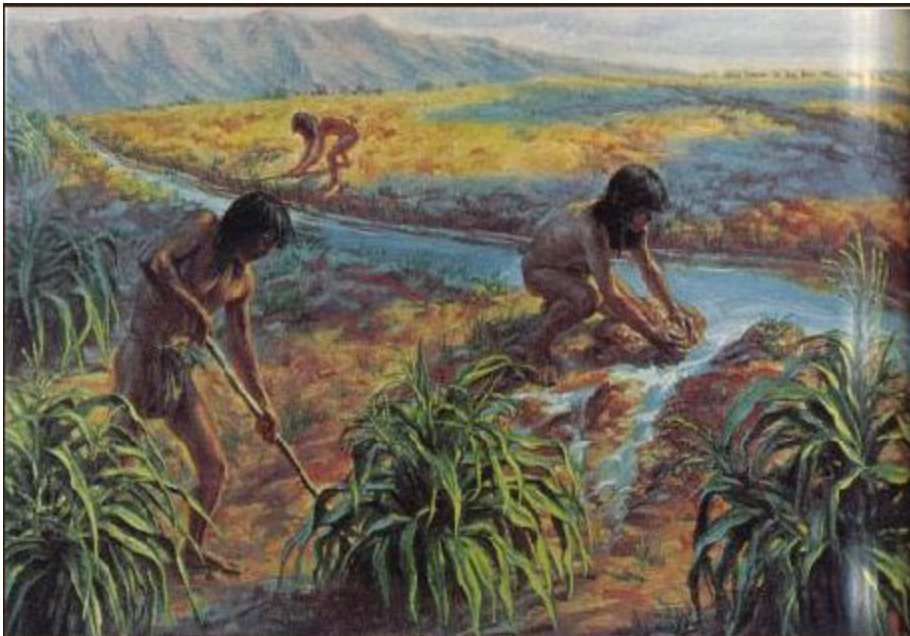
Agricultural River Valley Civilizations

Different crops or animals were **domesticated**, depending on the available local flora and fauna.



Agricultural communities had to work cooperatively to clear land and create the water control systems needed for crop production.

- Labor Intensive
- Began to trade
- Warfare



Pastoralism developed at various sites in the grasslands of Afro-Eurasia.

Pastoral Society

- Smaller
- Mobile (rare accumulation of wealth or possessions)
- Focus on hunting/gathering
- Better adaption to environment
- Soil Erosion and Overgrazing

Agricultural (Agrarian) Society

- Dependent on same soil
- Larger civilizations
- Sedentary
- Village life (later the emergence of the first cities)



HOW DID AGRICULTURE AND PASTORALISM BEGIN TO TRANSFORM EARLY SOCIETIES?

Pastoralism and agriculture led to:

- more reliable (not necessarily diverse) and abundant food supplies
- increased the population.
- specialization of labor
 - including: new classes of artisans (Craftsmen)
 - warriors
 - Societal elites
- Forced labor systems